contacting a test sample with a polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide specifically binds an *A. actinomycetemcomitans* antibody under conditions that allow formation of an immunocomplex between the antibody and the polypeptide; and

detecting an immunocomplex,

wherein detection of the immunocomplex indicates the presence of *A. actinomycetemcomitas* antibody in the test sample.

Remarks

Support for the preliminary amendment can be found at page 23, line 19 through page 24, line 5 of the specification:

> An antibody of the invention can be used in a method of the diagnosis of Aa infection by obtaining a test sample from an animal suspected of having an Aa infection. The test sample is contacted with an antibody of the invention under conditions enabling the formation of an antibody-antigen complex (*i.e.,* an immunocomplex). The amount of antibody-antigen complexes can be determined by methodology known in the art. A level that is higher than that formed in a control sample indicates an Aa infection. **Alternatively, a polypeptide of the invention can be contacted with a test sample.** Aa antibodies in a positive body sample will form an antigen-antibody complex under suitable conditions. The amount of antibody-antigen complexes can be determined by methods known in the art. (Emphasis added)

The amendment adds no new matter. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

Lisa M.W. Hillman
Registration No.: 43,673

McDonnell, Boehnen,
Hulbert & Berghoff
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 913-0001